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A NOTE ON THE PROBABLE HABITAT OF CRYPTOPHAGUS FALCOZI ROUBAL (COL., CRYPTOPHAGIDAE) — In Britain, *C. falcozi* has been found in the wild only in Windsor Forest (Owen 1982 *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 118:22). The first examples found there (21.i.1981) were in a rotten branch of beech lying on the ground below an old dead beech tree.

In spite of repeated searching, no more specimens could be found at the site but some months later, in a different part of Windsor Forest about 4km distant, I found some in the hollow stump of another beech tree which had been blown down some months previously. While the tree stood, its hollow base had communicated with the outside by a small hole at ground level. The stump was about 1.5m high and was composed of a shell of wood, soft and rotten on the inside with hard bark on the outside. The beetles were found by sieving rotten wood and debris from inside the stump. I do not know for how long the beetles continued to breed in the stump but they were still to be found there some 12 months later, that is about 18 months after the tree had been blown down and the interior of its hollow base exposed.

Recently (22.v.86), I found about a dozen examples of the beetle in debris from inside the hollow stump of another ancient beech tree which too had been blown over. It was about 1km from the second tree. There were a few old fruiting bodies of a *Ganoderma* sp. (probably *applanatum*) inside and outside the shell of the stump. While the tree stood, there had been a small hole linking the hollow inside to the outside at ground level.

The great similarity between the second and third sites, strongly suggests that the natural habitat of *C. falcozi*, at least at Windsor, is inside the hollow base of ancient beech trees. Until the tree blows down, this will often be (to coleopterists) a virtually inaccessible habitat which could explain the very few records for the species anywhere in its range. On this basis, the first examples taken must have comprised a temporary colony.

Examples of *Aeletes atomarius* (Aube) were present in both the hollow stumps. In Britain, this is a rare species (though not so rare as *C. falcozi*) and could possibly be an associated marker species. J. A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.